

In attendance

CAG Members

Bruce Beaulaurier
Jim Creevey
Ernie Grillo
Barbara Justice
Bente Pasko
Don Potter
Mike Rundle
Janey Whitt
Jeremy Zucker

King County Staff

Gina Auld, Capital Project Manager

Consultant Team

Jenny Bailey, Parametrix
John Perlic, Parametrix
Rita Brogan, PRR
Teresa Gonzales, PRR

Members of the public

Reid Brockway, area resident

Meeting agenda

I. Welcome

Jenny Bailey, Parametrix asked each CAG member to talk a little about which DEIS alternative they prefer and why.

II. CAG Statements of Preferred Alternative as of November 16, 2006

Members of the CAG agree that the Corridor Alternative is preferred to other alternatives.

Some CAG members thought the trail should be paved and some thought the trail should remain gravel. Most CAG members are concerned about what type of paving surface will be used.

CAG members in favor of a paved trail thought a paved surface was generally preferred by most trail users and thought it a better surface for some walkers (e.g., elderly trail users).

CAG members in favor of a soft trail offered the following reasons:

- Paved trail alternatives are substantially more expensive;
- Bicyclists will travel at higher speeds on paved trails, creating potential safety concerns for other trail users and adjacent property owners;
- Because of these higher speeds, paved trails are wider and thus have more potential environmental impacts; and
- A paved trail may not be as desirable for runners and some walkers.

Other suggestions include:

- Provide paved trail dedicated for bikes with an adjacent soft-surface trail for walkers and joggers;

- Consider the characteristics of the trails to which the East Lake Sammamish Trail connects. If these connections are paved, then it may be more appropriate for this trail to be paved.

A few CAG members have not yet selected an alternative and are open to more discussion.

TRAIL OPERATION

III. Hours

The trail is currently scheduled to be open from dawn to dusk and there are no plans to illuminate the trail. Most CAG members agree that the dawn to dusk timeframe is too narrow.

During the winter months in particular, this timeframe would close the trail to commuters. Some CAG members felt that the trail should be treated as a transportation corridor and remain open at all times. Some felt that keeping the trail open for commuters would improve trail safety.

Some CAG members who live on the trail also believe that closing the trail at dusk would be a problem for adjacent property owners because (1) the trail is used for access between neighbors, and (2) some property owners have to cross the trail to access the waterfront.

Most CAG members agreed and suggested the County consider extending the hours for the trail from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

TRAIL DESIGN ELEMENTS

IV. Trail Location

Some CAG members expressed concern that impacts on adjacent property along the trail were not adequately addressed in the DEIS. Specific concerns identified were landscaping, irrigation, and other utilities.

Other concerns expressed by some CAG members include encroachments by property owners on the trail and the need to have the trail wide enough to separate bikes from pedestrians.

V. Types of Trail Users/Trail Surfaces

Most CAG members agreed that the trail should be available to as many users as possible and that separating bikes from pedestrians with a paved and soft surface is the preferred option. It was also stated that the trail should accommodate both thin and fat tire bikes as long as the speed issue is addressed.

Some CAG members stated equestrian use should be restricted to the north end of the trail where they can hook into other equestrian friendly trails in Redmond.

VI. Trail Width

Most CAG members agreed that 12' should be the minimum width of the trail.

Some CAG members questioned the 18' width stating that there are places along the trail where it appears 18' is not available.

One CAG member stated that the trail width is being discussed too early and should not be determined until other issues have been decided such as types of use, hours, etc. The CAG member felt if both a paved and a separated soft-surface trail is provided, the pavement does not need to be 12' wide.

VII. Intersection Signage

Most CAG Members approve the planned signage. It was stated that the signs need to emphasize that vehicles must yield the right of way. It was also suggested that the trail be altered to direct people toward the cross-walks.

OTHER DESIGN ELEMENTS

VIII. Fencing

CAG members offered the following comments with regard to fencing:

- Appearance (chain link vs. other types);
- Height; and
- Placement and proximity to trail.

CAG members had the following comments regarding the close proximity of fencing to the trail rather than further out within the right of way:

- Concern that placing the fence close to the trail rather than at the right of way boundary, the County is giving away or putting artificial limits on who has the right to use property the County owns;
- Chain-link fencing on both sides of the trail creates a dog-run effect that is both unattractive and is a potential safety hazard to trail users; and
- CAG members acknowledged that some fencing is appropriate and may need to be close to the trail in certain areas. For example, privacy for homeowners and protection of critical areas.

CAG members requested consideration of the following in areas where fencing is needed;

- Look at different types of fencing other than chain-link (e.g., split-rail fencing) that are more attractive and better accommodate wildlife passage through the area;
- Locating the fence further from the trail, where practical;
- Consider a combination of split-rail fencing and chain-link only where needed for safety or security; and
- Use hedges that property owners maintain.

IX Retaining Walls

There were no comments or discussion on this topic.

X Landings (*East Lake Sammamish Place in particular*)

CAG members want to make sure that the size of the landings and the vegetation used provide a safe view of the trail with regard to the East A Alternative.

AMENITIES

XI Parking and Restrooms

CAG members suggested a sign be installed along the trail directing users to the restroom at Inglewood. The restroom is not currently seen from the trail.

X Entry Points

CAG members suggested lights at cross-walks and animal proof trash receptacles.

It was also suggested that local jurisdictions be involved early. For example, the City of Sammamish is currently considering other transportation improvements that are relevant to trail access (e.g., the signalization of Louis Thompson Road at East Lake Sammamish Parkway). The final EIS report will be sent to them.

XI Corridor Management

There was some discussion and disagreement about the future of the entire railbanked corridor right-of-way. This issue is outside of the scope of the Trail Master Plan Draft EIS, because the **County is not proposing any actions with respect to corridor management**. Thus it would not be appropriate in the context of this report to have a lengthy discourse on the topic. However, because the opinions are strongly held, some of the thoughts and ideas are captured below;

Preservation of the Railbanked Corridor

- Some CAG members feel strongly that the entire railbanked corridor should be preserved as a public right of way in perpetuity. (Note again that the County is not proposing anything that would change this.)

Use of the Railbanked Corridor

- Some CAG members feel strongly that more of the railbanked corridor (outside the trail footprint) should be available for public use; and
- CAG members who live near the trail are greatly concerned about the preservation of adjacent permitted uses, some of which date back decades.

XII Next Steps

CAG members were asked to consider dates for the next CAG meeting during the week of December 11. Tuesday, December 12 and Thursday, December 14 were the most likely dates. Everyone was encouraged to follow-up with Teresa Gonzales by phone or email.

Meeting summaries, the transcript from the public meeting and details about the next meeting will be sent to the CAG at least a week prior to the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.